Message Text

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INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 ABF-01 OMB-01 TRSE-00 L-03 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 ACDA-07 AF-08 ARA-06 EA-07 NEA-10 SSM-03 /114 W

-----050457Z 022800 /12

R 041402Z MAR 77 FM USMISSION USUN NY TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2619 INFO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

CONFIDENTIAL USUN 0616

E.O. 11652: GDS TAGS: UN, XF, UR

SUBJECT: UNEF/UNDOF FINANCING: POSSIBLE DEMARCHE ON SOVIET WITHHOLDING PORTION OF UNEF CONTRIBUTION ASSESSMENT.

REF: A) USUN 21 B) USUN 50

- 1. BEGIN SUMMARY: BRITISH SEEK US REACTION TO POSSIBLE DEMARCHE TO SOVIETS BY UK, FRANCE AND US ON SOVIET WITH-HOLDING OF PORTION OF THEIR ASSESSMENT FOR UNITED NATIONS EMERGENCY FORCE (UNEF). END SUMMARY.
- 2. UK MISSION INFORMED US LAST WEEK OF FCO INSTRUCTION TO SEEK REACTIONS FROM UN SECRETARIAT (URGUHART AND JONAH), US AND FRANCE ON POSSIBLE DEMARCHE WITH REGARD TO THE USSR'S WITHHOLDING ABOUT \$4.5 MILLION FROM TOTAL SOVIET ASSESSMENT FOR UNEF/UNDOF FOR PERIOD OCTOBER 25, 1975-OCTOBER 24, 1976. UN SECRETARIAT REACTION T DEMARCHE PROPOSAL WAS FAVORABLE.
- 3. JONAH COMMENTED THAT DURING HIS BRIEFING MISSION TO MOSCOW EARLY FEBRUARY, SOVIETS INDICATED THEIR INTENTION TO MAKE PAYMENT OF ANOTHER \$6 MILLION, LEAVING SHORTFALL OF APPROXIMATELY \$4.5 MILLION. SOVIETS POINTED OUT CONFIDENTIAL.

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THAT WHILE THEY WERE NOT GOING TO RENEGE ON THEIR COLLECTIVE RESPONSIBILITY, THEY WERE NOT GOING TO PAY FOR THINGS FOR WHICH THEY FELT THEY WERE NOT RESPONSIBLE. DEPARTMENT WILL RECALL THAT AT TIME OF SOVIET ANNOUNCEMENT OF WITHHOLDING, THE PRESS SPECULATED THAT IN ADDITION TO THE STATED REASON FOR WITHHOLDING PART OF THEIR ASSESSMENT (I.E., THAT THE USSR HAD NOTHING TO

DO WITH SINAI II AND THUS WOULD NOT PAY FOR IT), THE SOVIETS WERE SIGNALLING TO THE US THAT MOSCOW MUST NOT BE EXCLUDED FROM ANY NEW MIDDLE EAST NEGOTIATING INITIATIVE.

4. UK MISOFF REMARKED DEMARCHE PROPOSAL WAS SUPPORTED BY HIS MISSION AD INDICATED APPROPRIATE LEVEL FOR ACTION MIGHT BE UK DEPUTY PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE MURRAY TO USSR DEPUTY OVINNIKOV. HE ASSUMED FRENCH WOULD SUPPORT PROPOSAL, AND SUGGESTED UK, FRENCH, AND US MEET IN NEXT SEVERAL DAYS TO DISCUSS WHAT ACTUALLY SHOULD BE SAID TO SOVIETS, AT WHAT LEVEL, AND WHETHER DEMARCHE SHOULD BE DONE SEPARETELY OR TEGETHER.

5. COMMENT: ALTHOUGH THE SOVIETS WITHHOLDING IS UNJUSTIFIED AND, IF CONTINUED, WOULD ADD STRAIN WHICH UNEF/UNDOF CAN ILL AFFORD, MISSION QUESTIONS WHETHER BRITISH PROPOSAL OF DIRECT DEMARCHE TOSOVIETS IS CORRECT PROCEDURE. RATHER, SINCE FINANCIAL INTEGRITY OF UNEF/UNDOF IS RESPONSIBILITY FIRST AND FOREMOST OF SYG, A PREFERABLE PROCEDURE MIGHT BE FOR SELECTED DELEGATIONS (E.G. UK, FRANCE, US, CANADA, AUSTRALIA, ETC.) TO APPROACH WALDHEIM AND TO URGE HIM TO SEEK PROMPT PAYMENT OF ASSESSMENTS BY ALL NON-PAYEES -- INCLUDING SOVIETS, PRC, AND OTERS, BY DEALING WITH SOVIETS DIRECTLY, WE RUN RISK OF TAKING ON RESPONSIBILITY OF SYG, EXPOSING THOSE MAKING DEMARCHE ON BILATERAL BASIS TO SOVIET CHARGE OF DISCRIMINATORY TREATMENT (UNLESS WE ARE WILLING TO MAKE SAME APPROACH TO ALL DEFAULTERS), AND OF MOVING FROM A MULTILATERAL TO A BILATERAL CONTEXT OVERALL PROBLEM OF UN CONFIDENTIAL

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ARREARAGES.

6. ACTION REQUESTED: GUIDANCE APPROPRIATE TO RESPOND TO BRITISH PROPOSAL. YOUNG

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